

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-20, and 23-25 are pending in the application, with claims 4, 5, 21, and 22 having been canceled.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 23 and 24 have been amended and claim 25 has been added in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **April 24, 2003**.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-22 rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kabumoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,483,714) in view of Tomie (U.S. Patent No. 6,365,961) further in view of Ittipiboon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,303,419) further in view of Kameyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,273,943) further in view of Rowe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,739,448) further in view of Tohya et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,002,593) further in view of McClanahan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,396,397) further in view of Konno (U.S. Patent No. 5,384,486).

The Office asserted prior art references with line conductors are separated from a semiconductor substrate.

One of the patentably distinguishing features of the present invention is that the shield plate is residing on the highest layer of a plurality of line conductors, and the shield plate is covering the entire semiconductor substrate. By this structural arrangement, the semiconductor device will not be affected by environmental electromagnetic noise and is also prevented from generating radiating electromagnetic noise that may interfere with external devices.

Independent claim 1 has been amended consistent with the above-identified patentably distinguished feature of the present invention. By so amending, independent claim 1 is believed to be placed in condition for allowance. All claims depending thereon, by virtue of inherency, are also believed to be placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

The allowance of claims 23-24 is noted with appreciation.

New Claims

New claim 25 is added herein by amendment. Claim 25 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Allowance of newly added claim 25 is respectfully requested.

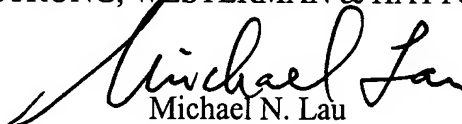
Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks all pending claims are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-234.

Respectfully submitted,
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